



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS COMMITTEE AGENDA

PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE

Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 4

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

Friday, January 3, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Al Kurtz

MEMBERS: Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, Andrew Quarnstrom, Bryan Wrona

ITEM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. October 31, 2013 Open Session Minutes
- b. October 31, 2013 Closed Session Minutes *(to be distributed)*

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

VI. PUBLIC AID APPEAL FROM CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP REGARDING APPELLANT #02.80

- a. Oath, Testimony, & Receipt of Evidence from Appellant
- b. Oath, Testimony, & Receipt of Evidence from Township
- c. Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4) to Consider Evidence or Testimony Presented in Open Hearing to This Quasi – Adjudicative Body
- d. Announcement of Decision

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Oath Script: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear and affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the best of your ability?)

Please note that parties to a case heard by the Public Aid Appeals Committee receive only the agenda attachments relevant to their case, in order to protect the privacy rights of any other parties who may have their case heard before the committee.

1 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
2 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**
3

4
5 **PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE**
6 **Thursday, October 31, 2013**
7 **Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3**
8 **1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**
9

10
11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Kurtz, Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, Bryan Wrona
12

13 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andy Quarnstrom
14

15 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Fred Grosser (Cunningham Township Attorney), Deana Landess
16 (Cunningham Township Caseworker), Michelle Mayol (Cunningham
17 Township Supervisor), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant)
18

19 **CALL TO ORDER**
20

21 Kurtz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
22

23 **ROLL CALL**
24

25 Rhodes called the roll. Magsamen, Rusk, Kurtz, and Wrona were present at the time of the
26 roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.
27

28 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
29

30 **MOTION** by Rusk to approve the minutes of June 14, 2013; seconded by Magsamen.
31 **Motion carried with unanimous support.**
32

33 **AGENDA/ADDENDUM**
34

35 **MOTION** by Rusk to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Magsamen. **Motion**
36 **carried with unanimous support.**
37

38 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
39

40 There was no public participation.
41

42 **PUBLIC AID APPEAL FOR CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP**
43 **REGARDING APPELLANT #02.78**
44

45 Appellant #2.78 entered the hearing at 9:03 a.m. Kurtz asked Appellant #2.78 to provide her
46 oath and testimony regarding her appeal. Appellant #2.78 testified that while working at her
47 designated workfare assignment, the Habitat Store, situations arose between herself and another
48 worker there that made her uncomfortable. This worker made sexual advances towards her but she

49 did not report it because she did not know what to do about it. Appellant #2.78 stated that she did not
50 realize that what was happening was called workplace sexual harassment until much later when she
51 had a conversation with a worker at A Woman's Place.

52
53 Kurtz asked Appellant #2.78 if she had reported this to anyone because he did not see it
54 mentioned in the Statement of Facts presented by the Cunningham Township Supervisor. Appellant
55 #2.78 stated she had not because she did not know that she had any recourse. Appellant #2.78
56 acknowledged that she signed herself out of work early on several occasions without permission and
57 falsified timesheets.

58
59 Fred Grosser, Attorney for Cunningham Township Supervisor's office asked Appellant #2.78
60 if an employee at A Woman's Place had advised her to list sexual harassment on her request for
61 appeal. Appellant indicated the employee did not tell her what to do; they had only discussed what
62 had happened to her and that it seemed to her to be workplace sexual harassment. Grosser asked if
63 anyone at A Woman's Place had told her to falsify time records. Appellant denied this.

64
65 Kurtz asked Michelle Mayol, Cunningham Township Supervisor and Deana Landess,
66 Caseworker for their oath and testimony regarding this case. Grosser questioned Landess regarding
67 her work at the Cunningham Township office, as well as her interactions with the Appellant. Landess
68 testified that she performed intakes, determined eligibility, made assignments to worksites and any
69 follow-up necessary to make sure the client performed the mandatory hours in order to remain
70 eligible for assistance.

71
72 Landess testified that she met the Appellant when she came in for an intake appointment and
73 processed her application. Grosser presented exhibits 1-15 into evidence on behalf of Cunningham
74 Township: the General Assistance Application dated May 20, 2013; Notice of General Assistance
75 Benefits dated June 10, 2013; Notice to Report for Workfare Assignment dated June 10, 2013;
76 Request for documentation of court dates preventing workfare attendance dated June 13, 2013;
77 Documentation regarding court signed by Public Defender attorney, dated June 16, 2013; General
78 Assistance Termination Notice dated July 1, 2013; Email communication from Restore Manager
79 stating failure to complete July hours and removal from schedule dated July 14, 2013; Email
80 communication from Restore Manager regarding falsification of timesheets dated August 31, 2013;
81 Notice of General Assistance Termination dated September 3, 2013; Notice of Appeal received
82 September 12, 2013; Pre-Hearing Conference Notice dated September 12, 2013; Letter noting failure
83 to appear at pre-hearing conference dated September 2013; Email communication from Restore
84 Manager regarding claim of sexual harassment dated September 24, 2013; Notice of Cunningham
85 Township General Assistance Standards dated October 29, 2013; Illinois Department of Human
86 Services PR 445.1 Participation Requirements; and Statement of Facts prepared by the Cunningham
87 Township.

88
89 Landess testified that the Appellant was to work 20 hours pro-rated the first month and 29
90 hours each month after that at her workfare assignment, the Restore. Landess testified that benefits
91 were terminated because she did not complete her workfare hours and she falsified timesheets.
92 Grosser asked Landess if the Appellant had ever mentioned any harassment taking place at her
93 workfare assignment. Landess testified that she was not aware of any type of harassment until it was

94 mentioned in the Appellant's Notice of Appeal. Landess then contacted the Restore manager who
95 stated that she was also unaware of any harassment.
96

97 Grosser asked Mayol to read sections of the Illinois Department of Human Services PR 445.1
98 Participation Requirements: ...A client who is assigned to work, education, or training projects is required to
99 accept the assignment as a condition of eligibility for assistance....Sanctions: ...If a client fails to accept or
100 complete an assignment, sanction the non-cooperating person...When a client fails to cooperate or accept a
101 work assignment and is sanctioned, the client is ineligible for GA for 3 months...All nonexempt GA clients
102 must accept assignment and cooperate with Work and Training Programs, as a condition of eligibility for GA.
103 Non-cooperation by a nonexempt person receiving TA makes the case ineligible...A sanctioned client is
104 ineligible for 3 payment months...
105

106 **MOTION** by Kurtz to enter into closed session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(4) to consider
107 evidence or testimony presented in open hearing to this Quasi – Adjudicative Body. He further
108 moved the following individual remain present: the Recording Secretary; seconded by Rusk.
109 **Magsamen, Rusk, Wrona, and Kurtz voted in favor of the motion.**
110

111 The township representatives, township's legal counsel, and Appellant #02.78 exited the
112 meeting room. The committee entered into closed session at 9:30 a.m. The committee resumed open
113 session at 9:35 a.m. The township representatives, township's legal counsel, and Appellant #02.78
114 re-entered the meeting room.
115

116 After consideration of the evidence, the Public Aid Appeals Committee determined that
117 Cunningham Township properly denied General Assistance benefits to Appellant #2.78 because she
118 did not complete required hours at Workfare Assignment.
119

120 The committee also found that Cunningham Township complied with its regulations, as well
121 as the regulations of the Department of Human Services, and there was no evidence that those
122 regulations were applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner. Accordingly, the decision of the
123 township to deny General Assistance to Appellant #2.78 was affirmed.
124

125 **OTHER BUSINESS**

126 There was no other business.
127

128 **ADJOURNMENT**

129 The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.
130
131

132 Respectfully submitted,
133 Kay Rhodes
134 Administrative Assistant
135
136
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